

COMMERCE NEWS

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GUTIERREZ ANNOUNCES HURRICANE CONTRACTING INFORMATION CENTER

One-Stop Shop to Help U.S. Businesses Participate in Hurricane Rebuilding Efforts

Washington, D.C. - Commerce Secretary Carlos M. Gutierrez today announced the Department of Commerce Hurricane Contracting Information Center (HCIC) that will help U.S. businesses, especially minority, women and small businesses participate in the Gulf Coast rebuilding efforts.

“The administration is reaching out to companies of all sizes, especially minority-owned enterprises, to guarantee that those seeking to join the rebuilding efforts can navigate federal agencies and bid for contracts with ease,” Gutierrez said. “This center provides the necessary information to U.S. businesses to participate in Gulf Coast contracting, subcontracting and reconstruction.”

The HCIC is an interagency effort to provide a centralized location for information and services available throughout the government geared to help in the contracting process. The HCIC is designed to assist U.S. businesses, especially minority and women-owned businesses and small and medium size enterprises interested in helping with the rebuilding efforts in the Gulf Region. The HCIC is being staffed by representatives from various federal agencies including:

Department of Commerce
Department of Energy
Department of Homeland Security
Department of Transportation
General Service Administration
United States Department of Agriculture

Department of Defense
Department of Health and Human Services
Department of Labor
Department of Education
[Small Business Administration](#)
Department of Housing and Urban Development

The HCIC includes a website (www.rebuildingthegulfcoast.gov) that allows companies to register with government agencies that are providing contracts to rebuild the Gulf Coast. The website also provides basic information on doing business with the government, e-mail alerts regarding specific contracting opportunities, links to other government and local agencies, and information about minority business services.

The HCIC also includes a call center (**1-888-4USADOC**) with representatives from different government agencies onsite to provide information on rebuilding opportunities. The call center will help businesses navigate the federal contracting process.

The HCIC will provide information and add transparency to the contracting process, but will not award contracts. Those responsibilities will remain with the specific government agencies.

The Hurricane Contracting Information Center

Questions and Answers

www.RebuildingTheGulfCoast.gov

1-888-4USADOC

Q: What is the benefit for my company to use the Hurricane Contracting Information Center?

A: Through the www.rebuildingthegulfcoast.gov, you may register your company and become eligible for federal contracts. You may also sign up for email alerts which will notify you upon contracts being made available that correspond to your company's area of expertise. The Hurricane Contracting Information Center also provides one place to find information and services that are offered throughout the government geared to help in the contracting process for U.S. businesses, including minority-owned businesses, women-owned businesses and small- and medium-size enterprises. By calling the Hurricane Contracting Information Center at 1-888-4USADOC, businesses can receive direct business counseling from a staff of individuals from contracting agencies.

Q: If I register through the Hurricane Contracting Information Center, am I considered for contracts as they come up in my area of expertise?

A: The first step is to make sure your company is registered to do business with the federal government through the link to Central Contracting Registration (operated by General Services Administration) located in the upper right-hand corner of the Hurricane Contracting Information Center home page. Once your company is registered, we encourage you to sign-up for the email alerts system so that you may find out when contracts become available. These alerts will provide information and contacts necessary for you to apply for those contracts. You will still need to apply for the specific contract that you are interested in obtaining.

Q: If I've signed up through another agency already, is there a need to register on this site?

A: We recommend that all businesses interested in federal contracting opportunities in the Gulf Region should register through the Hurricane Contracting Information Center to take advantage of the services provided through the Center as well as ensuring they are included in the list of eligible contractors and may receive email alerts of contract opportunities.

Q: Does the Hurricane Contracting Information Center award contracts?

A: No, the Hurricane Contracting Information Center serves as a central point of reference to offer businesses the opportunity to register and become eligible for federal contracting opportunities, to be notified of contracts as they become available and to understand the services and processes available to them.

Q: How do I access and secure sub-contracting opportunities?

A: By clicking on the sub-contracting information link of the Hurricane Contracting Information Center site, you can access contact information for the prime contractors to contact them directly regarding possible sub-contracting opportunities. Also, registration through the Hurricane Contracting Information Center using the Central Contracting Registration will allow your company to be in the database that prime contractors may utilize for sub-contracting opportunities.

Q: Can my business still donate goods to the relief effort through this number?

A: Yes. Part of the function of this Hurricane Contracting Information Center remains to work with companies interested in donating goods or services toward the relief effort in the Gulf Region.

The Hurricane Contracting Information Center Fact Sheet

**www.RebuildingTheGulfCoast.gov
1-888-4USADOC**

On October 11, 2005, Commerce Secretary Carlos M. Gutierrez unveiled the Hurricane Contracting Information Center (HCIC) to assist U.S. businesses, especially minority-owned businesses, women-owned businesses and small- and medium-size enterprises, in participating in the Gulf Coast rebuilding efforts.

This center provides the necessary information for U.S. businesses to participate in Gulf Coast contracting, subcontracting and reconstruction.

The Bush administration is reaching out to companies of all sizes, especially minority-owned businesses, women-owned businesses and small- and medium-size enterprises, to help those seeking to join the rebuilding efforts to navigate federal agencies and bid for contracts with ease.

www.RebuildingTheGulfCoast.gov

- The website allows U.S. businesses to register throughout other government websites to become eligible for federal contracts. One such website provides e-mail notifications of contracts being made available that correspond to particular areas of expertise.
- The website provides a central point for information and services available throughout the government geared to help in the contracting process for U.S. businesses, including minority-owned businesses, women-owned businesses and small- and medium-size enterprises.

1-888-4USADOC

- The HCIC also includes a call center staffed with representatives from 11 contracting government agencies onsite to provide direct business counseling.
- These individuals will help businesses navigate the federal contracting process.

Business Outreach

- The HCIC will canvas the business community by holding roundtables and events with business groups, leaders and others to create awareness of the HCIC and assist businesses.
- The HCIC will showcase the process and services available to aid business involvement.
- A calendar of events will be developed and maintained.